Demand of Zomi tribals of Manipur

3490. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last several years Zomi tribals in the North-East of Manipur have been demanding unification of the Zomi tribes scattered in the country besides amalgamation of Burma's Zomi areas with India and that a memorandum was recently submitted to the Central Government in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the implications involved; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Zomi National Congress has been demanding a separate Union Territory for the Zomi people comprising some areas of Manipur and Mizoram which according them are predominently inhabited by the Zomi people. This matter has been considered in consultation with the Government of Manipur. The creation of a Union Territory will not be expedient for the administration of the area and the so-called Union Territory will not be a contiguous and compact one, as the Zomi people are distributed in pockets all over the existing State of Manipur. The Manipur Government have intimated that they are making all efforts for the development programmes to reach remote villages in Hill Districts.

Smuggling of uranium on Bihar Borders

3491. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that uranium is being smuggled out on a large-scale from the border areas of Bihar; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the action taken by the Government to prevent smuggling of this precious metal which is essential in the working of the nuclear plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to available information there is no smuggling of uranium from the border areas of Bihar. Strict security measures exist in the Uranium Mine and Mill complex at Jaduguda which leave little scope for any pilferage of uranium. Further, anti-smuggling dirve in the entire Indo-Nepal border region has been intensified and appropriate measures are taken in close coordination with State and Central authorities to curb smuggling activities across the border.

Talks with Sikh Leaders on Punjab Issue

3492. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minster of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to initiate a dialogue on a political level with the Sikh leaders of Punjab to settle the Punjab issue;

(b) whether there are any preconditions for initiating such a political dialogue; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Government has made sincere efforts to implement the Punjab Accord and further efforts in this direction are continuing.